

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:IPERNICK:HHB

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S/S - WHLUERS

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 57

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV

1. TV - FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS KALB AND KOPPEL REPORTS
WHICH WERE FEATURED PROMINENTLY LAST NIGHT'S CBS AND ABC
NEWS PROGRAMS RESPECTIVELY:

A. KALB - QUOTE: THIS MORNING BREZHNEV WAS IN A
RELAXED AND EXPANSIVE MOOD WAITING IN HIS KREMLIN OFFICE
FOR KISSINGER TO ARRIVE. "RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., THEY
ARE GOOD, INTERESTING, USEFUL," HE SAID. "THERE IS MUCH
WORK TO BE DONE." SALT TALKS, THE MAJOR TOPIC OF
NEGOTIATION HERE, "I AM IN AN OPTIMISTIC MOOD," BREZHNEV
SAID. "WE HAVE MADE A VERY GOOD BEGINNING." THEN
OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO THE FIRST NUCLEAR ARMS AGREEMENT
SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BREZHNEV IN MAY 1972,
THE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER SAID, "THAT IS A DOCUMENT OF
PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS, THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO
WAR." A BEAMING KISSINGER THEN ARRIVED BUT HE WARNED
BREZHNEV NOT TO BLACKMAIL THE US, NOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF PRESUMED WEAKNESS. THE SECRETARY BELIEVES THAT HE
AND BREZHNEV CAN NOW REACH WHAT IS CALLED A CONCEPTUAL
BREAKTHROUGH, MEANING SETTING UP A FRAMEWORK FOR A NEW
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AND MODEST SALT AGREEMENT THAT WILL BE SIGNED WHEN THE

PRESIDENT RETURNS TO MOSCOW, PROBABLY IN LATE JUNE. ON
TRADE, ON MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE, ON

OTHER TOPICS THERE IS NOT MUCH HOPE OF PROGRESS EITHER
THIS WEEK OR DURING THE SUMMIT NOW BEING PLANNED. UNQUOTE

B. KOPPEL - QUOTE: BREZHNEV WAS IN AN EXPANSIVE MOOD
THIS MORNING. THERE, INSIDE THE KREMLIN BREZHNEV PLAYED
AMIAABLE HOST TO A SMALL GROUP OF AMERICAN NEWSMEN WHILE
WE ALL WAITED FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER TO BE USHERED IN.
BREZHNEV HAS BEEN TRYING TO CUT DOWN ON HIS SMOKING.
THE PHOTOGRAPHERS, HE TOLD US IN MOCK IRRITATION, SEEM
TO ALWAYS CATCH HIM HOLDING A CIGARETTE. BREZHNEV
PAUSED THEATRICALY WITH SMOKE CURLING OUT OF HIS MOUTH.
WHAT ABOUT THE SECOND SALT AGREEMENT ONE REPORTER ASKED?
WILL IT BE READY BY THE TIME PRESIDENT NIXON VISITS
MOSCOW? "I TAKE AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW ON THAT," SAID
BREZHNEV. "THE ONLY OTHER ALTERNATIVE TO THESE DOCUMENTS
IS WAR." WHAT ABOUT DETENTE, SOMEONE ELSE ASKED? IS
THERE PROGRESS? "IF I WERE TO REFER TO THE EUROPEAN
SECURITY CONFERENCE," SAID BREZHNEV, "I WOULD SAY THAT
DETENTE IS DRAGGING ITS FEET. THE OPPONENTS OF DETENTE
ARE INTRODUCING UNIMPORTANT MATTERS THAT HAVE NO BEARING
ON DETENTE." BREZHNEV MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO THOSE
IN THE U.S. CONGRESS WHO ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE A MORE
RELAXED SOVIET EMIGRATION POLICY, BUT THERE WERE NO
FURTHER QUESTIONS AS AT THAT MOMENT SECRETARY KISSINGER
AND HIS PARTY ARRIVED. "LET ME INTRODUCE GROMYKO TO YOU,"
SAID BREZHNEV TO KISSINGER GRABBING HIS OWN FM BY THE
ELBOW. "YES," SAID KISSINGER, "I THOUGHT HE LOOKED
VAGUELY FAMILIAR," AND SO IT WENT. A SERIES OF ONE
LINERS AS THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS MOVED TO
THEIR SEATS TO BEGIN DISCUSSING THE LIMITATION OF
STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE SOVIETS IN
PARTICULAR ARE BEING OPENLY OPTIMISTIC THAT A NEW SALT
AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED, BUT AS BREZHNEV DID TODAY THEY
ARE DRAWING ATTENTION TO THOSE WHO ARE BLOCKING THE
FRUITS OF DETENTE, SUCH AS MFN FOR SOVIET EXPORTS. IF
FOR SOME REASON DETENTE SHOULD FAIL OR A NEW SALT AGREE-
MENT NOT BE REACHED, THERE THE SOVIETS ARE SAYING IS
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WHERE THE BLAME WILL LIE. UNQUOTE

C. NBC CHANCELLOR PROGRAM CARRIED SIMILAR REPORT
FROM JOHN DANCEY.

2. RADIO - FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS KALB'S MARCH 26 FIRST
LINE REPORT AND SEPARATE RADIO SPOT:

A. QUOTE: A SOVIET VIEW OF WATERGATE AND SUMMITRY.
WATERGATE IS A SCANDAL RUSSIANS DON'T TALK ABOUT VERY MUCH
IN PUBLIC, CERTAINLY NOT WITH VISITING AMERICANS. IT IS
A SCANDAL THAT HAS TO BE RAISED AND THEN CAREFULLY,

RUSSIANS WHO KNOW RESPOND. IT IS REALLY INTERESTING ...

KISSINGER IS HERE BASICALLY TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM
OF SOVIET-AMERICAN DETENTE, CONCRETELY TO PREPARE FOR
ANOTHER SUMMIT MEETING, THE THIRD IN THREE YEARS BETWEEN
SOVIET PARTY CHIEF BREZHNEV AND PRESIDENT NIXON. SUMMIT
NUMBER I WENT LIKE A DREAM, IT PRECEDED THE BREAKIN
INTO DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS AS WELL AS THE DISCLOSURE.
SUMMIT NUMBER II WAS A KIND OF INDIRECT CASUALITY OF
WATERGATE. BREZHNEV ARRIVED IN MID-SUMMER LAST YEAR
AS FORMER WHITE HOUSE AIDE JOHN DEAN WAS SUPPOSED TO
APPEAR BEFORE THE SENATE WATERGATE COMMITTEE AT THE SAME
TIME. THE COMMITTEE CHARITABLY POSTPONED THE DEAN
TESTIMONY FOR A WEEK TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT A CHANCE TO
RUN FOREIGN POLICY. HE DID, BUT MOST AMERICANS SEEMED
MORE PREOCCUPIED WITH DEAN, HALDEMAN AND WATERGATE AND
COMPANY THAN THEY DID WITH THE VISITING COMMUNIST LEADER.
BREZHNEV HIMSELF DID NOTHING TO EMBARRASS THE PRESIDENT.
IN FACT HE DID HIS BEST TO HELP HIM. SUMMITRY AND
DETENTE ARE AFTER ALL AS MUCH BREZHNEV'S POLICY AS THEY
ARE THE PRESIDENT'S; BUT THE SUMMIT MADE NO BIG SPLASH.

SUMMIT NUMBER III IS NOW BEING PREPARED. KISSINGER
HERE TO STRESS THE PIVOTAL IMPORTANCE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN
DETENTE. YESTERDAY HE AND BREZHNEV MET IN THE SOVIET
LEADER'S KREMLIN OFFICE FOR A LONG AND INTENSIVE REVIEW
OF THEIR MUTUAL PROBLEMS. FIRST AND FOREMOST THE FRAME-
WORK FOR ANOTHER AGREEMENT FOR LIMITING THE STRATEGIC
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NUCLEAR ARSENALS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. THOSE TALKS RESUME
THIS MORNING AND WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW.

NOW WATERGATE ... THE SOVIET PRESS IN REPORTING ON
THE KISSINGER VISIT, SOVIET OFFICIALS IN DISCUSSING THAT
VISIT ALL MAKE ONE KEY ASSUMPTION; THAT THE PRESIDENT
OF THE U.S. WILL VISIT RUSSIA IN THE EARLY SUMMER AND
THAT PRESIDENT IS RICHARD NIXON. THE SCANDAL ITSELF, THE
MOVE TOWARDS IMPEACHMENT, THE REMOTE POSSIBILITY OF A
NIXONIAN RESIGNATION, THESE ARE ALL ISSUES OUT OF THEIR
CONTROL, THEY CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT PRESIDENT NIXON
WILL BE COMING.
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